

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2009

Ronald L. Medford
Acting Deputy Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Medford:

We write to express our strong support for the changes to the regulations implementing the Car Allowance Rebate System ("CARS") Act that were proposed in a letter sent on August 7, 2009 by María I. de Mier, on behalf of Toyota de Puerto Rico Corp. and the United Group of Automobile Importers (collectively, "GUIA," as the association is known in Spanish). The proposed changes would require car dealers—not vehicle disposal facilities—to dispose of the vehicle fluids and mercury switches in trade-in vehicles before those vehicles are crushed or shredded. We respectfully request your full consideration for this proposal, which reflects the reality that many disposal facilities do not have the resources or knowledge to dispose of the fluids found in "wet vehicles" in accordance with federal and local requirements.

As you know, pursuant to section 599.400(b)(2) of the CARS Act regulations, a vehicle disposal facility receiving a trade-in vehicle by a dealer must complete the Disposal Facility Certification Form, certifying that it "will dispose of refrigerants, antifreeze, lead products, mercury switches, and such other toxic or hazardous vehicle components prior to the crushing or shredding of the trade-in vehicle." We have been advised that, in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, many vehicle disposal facilities do not accept wet vehicles because these facilities do not have the resources or knowledge to properly dispose of the fluids contained therein. These facilities will only accept "dry vehicles" whose fluids have already been removed.

To address this problematic situation, GUIA has proposed that the Act's regulations be amended as they relate to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Because dealers in our districts have the facilities and knowledge required to dispose of vehicle fluids, GUIA has proposed that the dealers—not the disposal facilities—be required to remove and dispose of the fluids in a trade-in

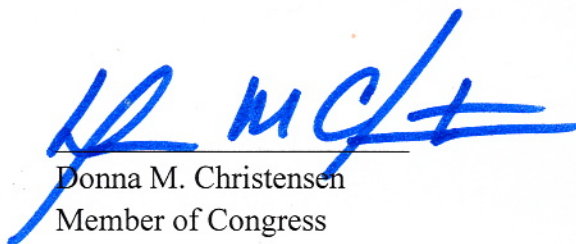
vehicle. The vehicle would then be transferred to a disposal facility as a "dry vehicle" to be crushed or shredded.

GUIA's proposal represents a common-sense solution that will facilitate Congress' intent under the CARS Act while ensuring that trade-in vehicles are properly disposed of. We hope you will give the proposal your full and prompt consideration.

Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress